



Falling Walls

Female Science Talents

Location: Low- and middle-income countries

Target group: Early career women researchers from academia and industry including PhDs, PostDocs, junior professors, heads of labs

Budget: \$50,000 a year (2022), \$90,000 a year (2023-2024)



Primary outcome

Inspire and empower women to make their next career step, help them to pursue flexible career paths, support them in building an international network, and promote female leadership in science, business and society.

Overview

The [Falling Walls Female Science Talents Programme](#)'s Intensive Track helps promising early career researchers make the transition from science to industry, offering them an international stage at the Berlin Science Week in November, and providing networks to help them to raise their visibility. Launched by the Falling Walls Foundation (FWF) in 2022 as a pilot, the Intensive Track increases the visibility of exceptional talents providing support to help participants achieve personal breakthroughs in their career. The selected champions meet outstanding women leaders and are matched with high-profile mentors. They participate in intensive trainings and are encouraged to build their own international success team for peer learning, peer coaching, and mutual support.

“I feel blessed to be a part of this network. This program will certainly be remembered as one of the turning points in my career journey. Your support is and will be memorable!”

— DR. EZGI KAYHAN-WAGNER, Female Science Talents Intensive Track participant

Goals

- Promote 60 champions in 3 years.
- Take 20 talents to the next level of their career each year.
- Build a sustainable community of 200 talents supporting each other.
- Build an efficient network of partners to support the programme financially and conceptually. Establish the networking event as an annual fixture for talented young women.
- Increase the proportion of female participants at the Falling Walls CONFERENCE and the Falling Walls CIRCLE.

Activities and milestones

- Promoted 40 champions in 2 years.
- Took 20 exceptional talents to their next career level in 2022.
- Ensured the gender parity of the Falling Walls CIRCLE Plenary Tables through participation of two Intensive Track Champions, Dr. Abir Haddad and Dr. Maryna Polyakova.
- Delivered a Meet Up for women scientists in academia and industry and gathered more than 70 participants from various academic institutions and companies.
- Tailored digital upskill workshops.
- Delivered two international symposia (International Spring Gathering in May and International Fall Gathering incl. Falling Walls Science Summit in November)
- Disseminated the bimonthly Falling Walls Female Science Talents Newsletter
- Intensive Track participant Dr. Marianne Wanjiru Mureithi (*in the main photo above*) was invited to speak at the panel "Building Resilient Healthcare Ecosystems" during the [African Health Agenda International Conference](#) (AHAIC) in Kigali, Rwanda, in March 2023.
- Intensive Track participant Marwa Shumo was interviewed by Elsevier Connect to spotlight her research on sustainable food production and insects as alternative protein source. The interview will be published in April 2023.

Right photo: Dr. Zarifa Mamedova, Head of Female Science Talents, opens the International Fall Gathering in November 2022.

Sustainability and future plans

- In 2022, the Falling Walls Female Science Talent program was launched as a pilot, receiving 60 applications. For the 2023-2024 phases, the Falling Walls Foundation plans to establish the Intensive Track program as internationally recognized female leadership program with a strong support network of partner companies, foundations and research institutions providing in kind and financial support. The program will target 100 applications in 2023 and 200 in 2024.
- The FWF aims to raise the program's prestige within the academic and science community by establishing the Women Breakthrough Award, in partnership with the Elsevier Foundation, to be awarded at a gala dinner during the Falling Wall Science Summit in November 2023.
- The Falling Walls Foundation is exploring establishing an annual Female Science Talents Congress on November 7th during the International Fall Gathering and the Falling Wall Science Summit.
- For the overall Talents Track, the Falling Walls Foundation plans to implement a basic curriculum of short digital workshops to help women in science connect with each other and become member of the Female Science Talents Community.

